

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1156**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez**

February 22, 2013

---

An act to amend Sections 1 and 6 of the Palo Verde Irrigation Act (Chapter 452 of the Statutes of 1923), relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1156, as introduced, V. Manuel Pérez. Palo Verde Irrigation District Act.

Existing law establishes the Palo Verde Irrigation District Act with the purpose of, among other things, providing a unified and comprehensive method of supplying the district, as defined, with water for irrigation and domestic uses and protecting lands within the district from flood waters of the Colorado River. Existing law requires any person, firm, or corporation which owns, or has any interest in, real property or improvements on real property, or both, whose interest or ownership is assessed on the last preceding equalized assessment roll of the district be entitled to vote at certain elections related to the district. The act entitles a property owner to one vote for every \$100 of assessed valuation on the equalized assessment roll, as specified.

This bill would entitle a person, firm, or corporation that owns land, or any interest in land, whose interest is assessed on the preceding equalized assessment roll of the district to vote at the specified elections. This bill would entitle each property owner to one vote for every \$100 of assessed value of land, not including improvements, on the equalized assessment roll.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1 of the Palo Verde Irrigation District Act is amended to read:

Section 1. (a) The State of California and the people thereof are hereby declared to have a primary and supreme interest in securing to the inhabitants and ~~property~~ owners of the ~~low-irrigable~~ ~~low-irrigable~~ lands within what is known as the “Palo Verde ~~valley,”~~ Valley,” in Riverside and Imperial ~~counties~~ *Counties*, the greatest possible use, conservation and protection of the waters of the Colorado ~~river~~ *River* to the extent that the same may be lawfully diverted to their lands, to the end that their water system, ~~their~~ land, structures, and other properties may be protected from overflow of the flood waters ~~of said~~ *from the* river, their swamp lands drained, and thereby the greatest productivity of the largest possible area may be accomplished and safely carried on within reasonable limits of economy.

(b) *The Legislature hereby finds and declares the following:*

(1) *That as a special district, the purpose of the Palo Verde Irrigation District is to secure to the district’s landowners and inhabitants the greatest possible use, conservation, and protection of the waters of the Colorado River, to protect their water system, land, structures, and other properties from overflow of the flood waters from the river, and to reclaim swamp lands and thereby promote the greatest productivity of the largest possible area of land within reasonable limits of safety and the economy.*

(2) *That the owners of land in the Palo Verde Irrigation District enjoy distinct benefits flowing as a result of the district’s declared purpose, and absorb specific costs related to this purpose, in the form of assessments against land and water charges, and that these landowners are therefore substantially affected by, and directly interested in, the district’s governance.*

**Investigation**

(c) *Investigation* having shown conditions in the Palo Verde ~~valley~~ *Valley* to be peculiar to that valley, it is hereby declared that a general law cannot be applicable thereto, and the enactment of this special law is therefore necessary for the proper distribution and use of the waters available for the valley, the protection of the valley against inundation, the ~~recla-mation~~ *reclamation* of the

1 swamp lands, and financing the development of the valley by the  
2 means herein provided.

3 SEC. 2. Section 6 of the Palo Verde Irrigation District Act is  
4 amended to read:

5 Sec. 6. Any person, ~~firm~~ *firm*, or corporation ~~owning any real~~  
6 ~~property and/or the improvements thereon, that owns land~~ or any  
7 interest in real property and/or the improvements thereon (but not  
8 including personal property) ~~which~~ *land whose* interest or  
9 ownership, *not including improvements on the land*, is assessed  
10 on the last preceding equalized assessment roll of the district (and  
11 only the owners of ~~property~~ *land* so assessed) shall be entitled to  
12 vote at any election, special or general, for the election of trustees,  
13 or for any other purpose pertaining to the affairs of ~~said~~ *the* district.  
14 Each property owner ~~so~~ qualified to vote shall be entitled to cast  
15 one vote for ~~each~~ *every* one hundred dollars of assessed valuation  
16 (\$100) or fraction thereof greater than fifty dollars, ~~as the same~~  
17 ~~appears to have been~~ (\$50) *of assessed value of land, not including*  
18 *improvements on the land*, on the equalized assessment roll of the  
19 district last preceding the holding of the election. In determining  
20 the total number of votes any voter is entitled to cast, the total  
21 assessed value of all parcels *of the land* owned by the voter shall  
22 be divided by ~~one hundred~~ *100*, and the quotient shall determine  
23 the number of votes.